



**U.S. AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
BUREAU FOR HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE (BHR)
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

INDIA – Floods

Fact Sheet #1, Fiscal Year (FY) 2001

August 16, 2001

Background

- Since May 2001, several Indian states have experienced severe flooding due to incessant heavy rains. The most adversely affected districts, located in the eastern state of Orissa, include Kendrapara, Jajpur, Puri, Cuttack, Khorda, and Angul. Orissa State is still recovering from the effects of the 1999 super cyclone. Since the end of July, flooding has also affected the northeastern region of India, including the states of Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal.

Numbers Affected

- According to the Government of India (GOI), the floods in Orissa State have affected more than 8.7 million people, in 20 of its 30 districts, and claimed 98 lives. The total number of displaced or stranded residents in Orissa State has decreased from two million people to an estimated 200,000 people. Over 240,000 houses were damaged or destroyed, and more than 40,000 people remain without shelter.
- In addition, India has suffered approximately \$13.54 billion in agricultural damage, including losses of an estimated 891,000 hectares of cropland and at least 14,142 head of cattle.
- Initial reporting indicated the floods interrupted 32 transportation and telecommunication links.

Current Situation

- According to the GOI, rivers most recently flooded in Orissa State have receded below danger levels. However, Indian officials expect the flood-like situation to continue, because a good pre-monsoon rain fell over most parts of the country and the Bay of Bengal is experiencing slow drainage. The most recently affected districts are those that were devastated by the cyclone in 1999.
- The major humanitarian concerns are temporary shelter, the increase in potential health risks, the lack of potable water, and the restoration of livelihoods. The health situation has deteriorated significantly due to the flooding of 235 health centers and the contamination of thousands of drinking water sources. The GOI, non-governmental organizations, and international organizations have recorded thousands of cases of water and vector-borne diseases. The GOI has dispatched more than 270 medical workers to affected districts to provide medical assistance.
- Most evacuees have started returning to their homes. However, official reports indicate that most of the evacuees in Kendrapara, Puri, and Jajpur districts may remain at higher elevations, on major highways, or along river embankments. Many of the GOI's military forces remain involved in the relief and rescue operations.
- Food airlifts and emergency distributions are continuing in several of the adversely affected areas.
- On July 17, the Orissa State Government appealed to the GOI for \$42 million, and on July 18, the GOI responded with \$21 million in emergency assistance. The Orissa State Disaster Management Organization (OSDMA) is providing coordination for all agencies working in the relief program.

U.S. Government (USG) Assistance

- A USAID/OFDA program officer and the USAID/OFDA regional advisor for South Asia conducted flood assessments in Orissa State, beginning on July 19. Based on the recommendations of the USAID/OFDA assessments, U.S. Charge d'Affaires Albert Thibault declared a flood disaster on July 20.
- In response to the disaster declaration, USAID/OFDA immediately provided an initial \$25,000 in disaster assistance through USAID/New Delhi to the Prime Minister's National Disaster Relief Fund for immediate emergency assistance to those affected by the floods in Orissa State.
- In addition, on August 1, USAID/OFDA provided a total of \$980,555 to CARE (\$500,075) and CRS (\$480,480) to respond to the immediate needs of flood victims in Orissa State. CARE and CRS will implement activities over a three-month period to include the distribution of emergency food, shelter materials, and seeds for kitchen gardens. The activities will target approximately 70,000 flood-affected households in Orissa State.
- The GOI has utilized USAID/OFDA-funded Zodiac boats and water filters, previously donated in response to earlier disasters, to assist in search and rescue efforts and to provide potable water for the affected populations.

USG Funding Summary

USG Agency	Implementing Partner (if applicable)	Project/Sector	Region (if applicable)	Dollar Amount
USAID/OFDA	Prime Minister's Fund	Immediate relief supplies	Orissa State	\$25,000
	CARE	Emergency food, shelter, and seeds	Orissa State	\$500,075
	CRS	Emergency food and shelter	Orissa State	\$480,480
	<u>USAID/OFDA Total</u>			<u>\$1,005,555</u>
	<u>Total USG Assistance</u>			<u>\$1,005,555</u>

Note: Please refer to the India U.S. Government Assistance Summary, dated August 2001, for a cumulative listing of USG assistance provided during FY 2001 in response to the recent earthquake, drought, and floods.

USAID/OFDA fact sheets can be obtained from the USAID web site at http://www.info.usaid.gov/hum_response/ofda/situation.html